

## **Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes (Corrected as of January 27, 2022)**

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021

The Monthly Meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 11:30am at the COA Center with the following members present Josette Burke, Linda Winslow, Janet Fasanello, Richard McCarthy, Mary Jones, Jim Pellegrine, Roseanne Rockwell, Sandhya Malur-Wilson, and Joanne DiPietro. Also in attendance was Select Board Member Mark Gallivan, COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, Outreach Coordinator Laurel St. Pierre, and Nancy Aicardi. Two (2) townspeople as guests were as also present.

Absent: Meagan Priest

The meeting was called to order at 11:31am by Josette Burke

1. Review of October Meeting Minutes
  - Rich McCarthy made a motion to accept the Minutes as is, and the motion was seconded by Janet Fasanello. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.
2. Outreach Review – Laurel St. Pierre
  - Printouts of slides showing Outreach numbers were provided
  - Through November, numbers are just about double the numbers for all of 2019
  - The total outreach for September was 612, an increase of just under 100 over November
  - Numbers seeing large increases are Medicare due to continuing Open Enrollment, medical rides, foot care and the blood pressure clinic
  - HESCO's grant under Title 3 has run out and is now limiting participants to 3 rides per year total – the Center is trying to assist Veterans as a priority
  - Marv Feldman provided a breakdown of 2021 numbers
    - He completed a total of 129 individual beneficiary analysis
    - Recommendations were made to 71 beneficiaries (55%)
    - The total dollars that could be saved with 100% changes is \$49,437 for an average savings for each of the 71 beneficiaries of \$696 for 2022
3. Center Statistics – Kerri McManama
  - Once again, printouts of slides were provided
  - In-town participants versus out-of-town participants are running 74% to 26%
  - Numbers are still running over 100 per day
  - There was one incident of COVID exposure the week of December 1st
    - The Center consulted the BOH for guidance and notified the class of exposure
    - Kerri will continue to give monthly updates on COVID
  - The Fitness Room will be open 5 days/week beginning in January
  - The Gift Cart has contributed more than \$1500 to the Center (an additional \$250 was realized from the Holiday Open House)
  - Floral Design was a big hit and will return in February
  - "My Active Center" an online registration system will become active for February registrations
    - An email will be generated by MySeniorCenter to everyone on the Center's email list to invite them to set up an account
    - Tutorials will be provided on January 6th and January 11th
    - The Center will keep classes that have limited numbers to phone registration
  - South Street Center Birthday Party to be held on January 21st

4. Finance Report – Jim Pellegrine
  - Expenses totaled \$1,637.22 in November
  - A total of \$4,968.97 of the Formula Grant was spent in November – the largest expense remains the part-time permanent salary
5. Old Business
  - Master Plan Update – Janet Fasanello
    - The Committee voted on a logo for the Master Plan
      - High School art classes students were asked to design a logo
      - The winning logo was chosen from these submissions
    - A website – MIRO – has been set up for participants to take the survey
    - The consultants continue to compile results from in person meeting as well as online submissions
    - Next meeting of Committee is January 25<sup>th</sup> via Zoom
  - Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update
    - Denise Landry will be speaking at today's Coffee and Conversation to talk about the Authority as well as answer any questions
  - Select Board Update
    - A brief overview of December 7th's meeting was provided by Ben Barrett
      - Topics included 300th Anniversary Committee, Fiscal Year 2023 budget, WFD quarterly update and the results of the WPD police chief search
    - Mark Gallivan provided additional information regarding the School Building Committee
      - Some of the work at the site will begin next summer while school is closed
        - a. Construction will continue during 2023 and 2024, including during the school year
        - b. The hope is to open the new school in fall of 2024
  - Topics/Speakers for Upcoming Meetings
    - Sandhya brought up two topics:
      - An article from the NYT regarding a program to combat loneliness started in Frome, England – Sandhya to email the article to everyone in order to provide the information for future discussion
      - Free Clinic for pets
        - a. A friend of Sandhya, Joe Joseph, who lives in Medfield and is on the Board of an animal shelter there
        - b. He offered to run a free clinic (where they would cover any costs) to provide a Vet to come and look at people's pets- specifically cats and possible dogs
        - c. A vote was taken – and passed – to invite Joe Joseph to the February meeting
  - Friends of Walpole Elders update – Representative did not attend Board meeting – no report
6. New Business
  - "Bridging the Gap" Update – Rich McCarthy
    - 15 seniors signed up and are working with 7th grade students from the Johnson Middle School
    - The seniors give the student a topic to research, then the student will write an article
    - Another session to be held in April
  - "Thanksgiving for Seniors" Debrief – Rich left after "Bridging the Gap" discussion - no debrief
  - COA Budget review
    - Janet (Principal Clerk) is the anchor for the front desk – Kerri is trying to increase her hours
    - Kerri is also trying to increase Sherri's (Program Coordinator) hours
    - Kerri is also trying to increase the total hours for the Outreach Worker from 25 to 35 hours as Laurel the Outreach Worker is returning to her original 25 hours that she was hired at. The Center is looking to add a part time Formula Grant funded Outreach Worker position at 14-16 hours. This would also serve as a transition opportunity to proactively plan for Outreach Worker retirement in the future.

- As a future goal, Kerri would like to provide a new position of Kitchen Manager as Meals on Wheels (HESSCO) are no longer prepared here – the Caterer is now cooking and portioning meals and HESSCO is just keeping them warm until they are delivered
- The hope is that HESSCO will start providing lunches for seniors here at the Center in addition to handling the Meals on Wheels – the COA is working with the BoH on this
- Kerri is also hoping to bring back serving breakfast here at the Center
- Thank Yous went out from the Board to Country Kitchen for providing donuts for the students who did the raking at Neponset View and Diamond Pond as well as to Lily and Ryan (brother & sister) who served at the Appreciation Event
- Questions for Liz Gaffey for next meeting: 1) information on Town elections and 2) upcoming redistricting
  - Mark mentioned that Paul Feeney will no longer be the Senator representing Walpole due to State redistricting
  - Walpole will now be represented by Mike Rush, which means Walpole's alignment is moving toward Boston as opposed to away
- Holiday Open House Debrief
  - 175 people attended, many came for an hour and stayed all day
  - Feedback was "best event the COA ever had"
  - It was hard to hear the harpist as the room was very loud – she will be brought back for an event around Mother's Day
  - Kerri will print out the photos from the Photo Booth and display them at Center
  - The Holiday Stroll was a great success

#### 7. Open Forum

- No questions from the guests

Janet Fasanello motioned, and Sandhya Malur seconded to adjourn this meeting

After a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32pm

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 10:00am in person at the Center.**